

CONFIDENTIAL



INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT FOR CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES AT KINGDOM COMMUNITY MINISTRIES (KCM)

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS MINISTERS

Since 2007 it has been KCM's mission to help our Couselees draw closer to Jesus Christ, and to overcome the crippling effects of sin and guilt. To accomplish this mission we find that the counseling relationship must have clearly defined rights and responsibilities held by you (the Couselee) and your KCM Minister. As a Couselee you have certain rights that are important for you to know about because this is your counseling process. There are also certain limitations to those rights that you should be aware of as well. Further to these points, we want to make clear that KCM Ministers have corresponding responsibilities to you, too, and you have the right to know what they are.

I. CONFIDENTIALITY

Barring the specific exceptions described below, you have the absolute right to confidentiality in your counseling process. We Cannot (and will not) tell anyone else what you have told us, or even that you are in counseling with us without your prior written permission. Under the provisions of the Health Care Information Act of 1992, we may legally speak to another healthcare provider or a member of your family about you without your prior consent, but we will not do so unless the situation is an emergency. We will always act so as to protect your privacy even if you do release us in writing to share information about you. You may direct us to share information with whomever you choose, and you can change your mind and revoke that permission at any time. You may request anyone you wish to attend a counseling session with you. You are also protected under the provisions of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

The following five points are legal exceptions to your right to confidentiality. We will inform you if any of these need to be put into effect:

1. If we have good reason to believe that you will harm another person, we must attempt to inform that person and warn them of your intentions. We must also contact the police and ask them to protect your intended victim.
2. If we have good reason to believe that you are abusing or neglecting a minor (someone under the age of 18) or vulnerable adult (i.e., one who is elderly, mentally impaired, etc.), or if you give us information about someone else who is doing this, we must inform Child Protective Services within 48 hours and Adult Protective Services Immediately.
3. If we believe that you are in imminent danger of harming yourself, we may legally break confidentiality and call the police or the county crisis team. We will explore all other options with you before we take this step. If at that point you were unwilling to take steps to guarantee your safety, we will call the police/crisis team.
4. If, in the course of receiving couples or family counseling services, you, your partner, or family member(s) request individual sessions as part of couples/family counseling, what you say in those individual sessions will be considered to be a part of the couples/family counseling process, and likely will be discussed in our joint sessions. Do not tell us anything you wish kept secret from your partner/family. We will remind you of this policy before beginning individual sessions.
5. While every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality, in rare matters where a KCM Minister is ordered by a judge through subpoena to surrender details of a case or face legal punishment, the Minister will likely choose to surrender the information.

If you elect to communicate with us by email, we are willing to respond briefly by return email, but please be aware that email and other electronic media are not completely confidential. By choosing this form of communication you are assuming the associated risks.

II. RECORD-KEEPING

We keep notes on all matters involving the intake process, treatment plans, process/progress of treatment, contact with you outside of sessions (i.e., discussions via phone, etc.), missed appointments, consultation with other healthcare professionals, and termination of treatment. Our record-keeping is safe and HIPAA compliant in both process and procedure.

III. DIAGNOSIS

Diagnoses are technical terms that describe the nature of your problems and generally determine if they are short-term or long-term problems. If a diagnosis is rendered in your case, we will discuss it with you.

Kingdom Community Ministries
5330 Office Center | Suite #27 | Bakersfield, CA. 93308
2675 Highland Avenue | Carlsbad, CA. 92008
Ph. 661.324.4070 | Web: www.kcmcounseling.com

CONFIDENTIAL

IV. OTHER RIGHTS

You have the right to ask questions about anything that happens in counseling. We are always willing to discuss how and why we have decided to do what we are doing, and to look at alternatives that might work better. You can feel free to ask us to try something that you think will be helpful. You can ask us about our training for working with your concerns, and can request that we refer you to someone else if you decide we are not the right Minister for you. You are free to leave counseling at any time; although, we recommend finding a way to give us advance notice so that we can help you end treatment well and consolidate gains (please see point VI. below on Ending Counseling). Because we have a limited practice, we do not have 24 hour emergency or "on call" coverage. If you believe you will need a Minister/health care provider with 24 hour coverage we will be happy to make a referral. *If you experience an emergency, you should call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room rather than waiting for us to call you back.*

V. FEES

Individual, couple, and family counseling sessions are conducted within the span of 50 minutes, at a standard rate of \$130 per session for KCM Ministers holding a Doctorate degree, and \$100 per session for KCM Ministers holding a Masters degree.

Counselee's with an annual household income below \$70,000 qualify for our sliding scale and will pay a rate of \$70-\$100 per session. In such cases, a copy of your most recent pay stub or income tax statement is required prior to the onset of counseling services.

You will be asked to pay at the end of each session conducted. KCM accepts cash, personal check, or credit card (including bank cards). Receipts are issued via email on the day the session is conducted. We do not offer payment plans.

KCM does not accept insurance, and will not issue claims forms for reimbursement.

Your session fee has been set at: **\$130.00.**

VI. ENDING COUNSELING WELL

To support your leaving, we advise at least two weeks' notice prior to your actual departure to allow for a positive experience of leaving well, and to promote a sense of completion.

If we initiate termination from our services, it is because we find that we are not able to be helpful to you any longer. Our Ethics and license requires that we offer quality service and position our Counselee's needs as paramount in our treatment planning. If we no longer find that we are the best or right Minister for you, we will offer referrals to other sources of care, but cannot guarantee that they will accept your case for counseling or how they will approach your treatment.

VII. OUR TRAINING AND APPROACH TO CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

Our Ministers are licensed/ordained by reputable, Christ-centered organizations and hold a minimum of a Master's degree related to the field of Christian counseling. Additionally, our Ministers hold various certifications that enhance their expertise.

KCM Ministers are not licensed psychiatrists, psychotherapists, or social workers.

Our training and expertise center on a comprehensive, scripturally-rooted, Christ-centered approach; wherein, thought processes and behaviors are assessed and addressed from a biblical perspective. We are trained in and use a variety of techniques in counseling, including: exploration of biblical disciplines and scripture specific to your issues, cognitivechallenging/refocusing/reframing from a biblical perspective, communication skills, bibliotherapy (the use of books by Christian authors as a mechanism for building awareness of issues, and introduction of approaches to healthy coping), exploration of emotions and relationship patterns, interpersonal resolutions, relaxation techniques, structured-problem solving, supportive reflection, and symptom management.

We may suggest that you get involved in additional or adjunctive forms of treatment outside of KCM, such as a support group as part of your counseling process. If another health care provider is working with you, we may request a written release of information from you so we can communicate freely with them about your care.

We want to make your counseling process as successful as possible. For that reason, it works best to find a rhythm and structure with sessions that occur regularly (typically, once a week).

CONFIDENTIAL

KCM Ministers are away from the office at times during the year attending professional conferences/training's or vacationing. If your KCM Minister will not be able to respond to phone messages during those times we will have another KCM Minister made available to assist you with urgent matters. Your Minister will tell you well in advance of any anticipated absences.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE COUNSELEE

VIII. SESSIONS & CANCELLATIONS

If need be, we ask that you make arrangements for childcare before attending your sessions. KCM does not permit unattended minors under the age of 13 in our waiting areas.

You are responsible for arriving on time for your scheduled sessions. If you are late we will end on time and not run over into the next Counselee's session. If you miss a session without canceling, or cancel with less than twenty-four (24) hours notice you may be charged a late cancellation fee at a rate that is half your regular session fee.

IX. COMPLAINTS

If you are unhappy with what is happening in counseling, we encourage you to talk about it with us so that we can respond to your concerns. Please see Section VI on the prior page re: Ending Counseling.

X. COUNSELEE CONSENT TO CHRISTIAN COUNSELING AT KCM

I have read this statement, and acknowledge that I have had sufficient time to ensure that I considered it carefully, asked any questions that I needed to, and understood it. I understand the limits to confidentiality required by law. I understand the fee per session and my rights and responsibilities as a Counselee, and my Minister's responsibilities to me. I know I can end counseling at any time I wish.

Starting counseling with KCM signals my agreement with the policies set forth in the preceding ten Sections.

Print Name

Birthdate

Signature

Date